

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to manage a packet array, comprising:  
  
receiving a packet by a device driver;  
  
determining a resource state for said device driver;  
  
setting a resource state indicator for said packet based on said resource state;  
  
adding said packet to a packet array; and  
  
indicating said packet array to a protocol stack if said resource state comprises a low resource state to reduce copying of packets between buffers ~~based on said resource state.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said setting comprises:  
  
~~determining a resource state for said device driver;~~  
  
comparing said resource state to a predetermined threshold; and  
  
setting said a resource state indicator in accordance with said comparison.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said setting said resource state indicator in accordance with said comparison comprises:

setting said resource state indicator to normal if said resource state is above or equal to said predetermined threshold; and

setting said resource state indicator to low if said resource state is below said predetermined threshold.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said packet array has a length of 1-N.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said packet array is stored in a first buffer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 ~~1~~, wherein said resource state indicator is an explicit resource state indicator.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving said packet array;

determining an implicit resource state for each packet in said packet array; and

copying each packet having an implicit resource state below a predetermined threshold from said first buffer to a second buffer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said packets are ordered from 1-N in said packet array, and determining said implicit resource state comprises:

retrieving each packet in order from said packet array;  
determining that said implicit resource state is normal for each packet if said explicit resource state indicator is normal; and  
determining that said implicit resource state is low for any remaining packets in said packet array if said explicit resource state indicator is low.

10. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;  
said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in managing a packet array by receiving a packet by a device driver, determining a resource state for said device driver, setting a resource state indicator for said packet based on said resource state, adding said packet to a packet array, and indicating said packet array to a protocol stack if said resource state comprises a low resource state to reduce copying of packets between buffers ~~based on said resource state..~~

11. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 10, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in setting said resource state indicator for said packet by ~~determining a resource state for said device driver~~, comparing said resource state to a predetermined threshold, and setting said ~~a~~ resource state indicator in accordance with said comparison.

12. (Original) The article of claim 11, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in setting said resource state indicator in accordance with

said comparison by setting said resource state indicator to normal if said resource state is above or equal to said predetermined threshold, and setting said resource state indicator to low if said resource state is below said predetermined threshold.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) The article of claim 10, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said packet array having a length of 1-N.

15. (Original) The article of claim 10, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in storing said packet array in a first buffer.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15 ~~10~~, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said resource state indicator being an explicit resource state indicator.

17. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said packet array, determining an implicit resource state for each packet in said packet array, and copying each packet having an implicit resource state below a predetermined threshold from said first buffer to a second buffer.

18-19. (Canceled).